



STAN LEE PRESENTS MARVEL AGE®

MARVEL® AGENDA

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SALICRUP'S SECTION



The question every comic book editor dreads is "What does a comic book editor actually *do*?" Without revealing any industry secrets, I can offer a quick answer with a handy example. Editors make decisions. They decide who writes, draws, letters and colors the titles they edit. They decide all sorts of things based on what the creative crew creates. For example, for this issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, WONDER MAN artist Jeff Johnson drew four different cover sketches. It was my job to decide which one to use. First, I decided that I didn't want to make any difficult decisions, so I asked everyone who walked by my office which sketch they liked best. The "This-Is-A-Job-For-Wonder Man" approach? The "Wolverine As A Gratuitous-Guest-Star"? The "Gone-With-The-Wind" homage? Or the "Wonder Man-On-The-Set"? Opinion

was split evenly between them. So what's an editor to do? Well, in this age of multiple covers, I decided to go with all of them. You can imagine how happy this made Jeff, as well as Terry Austin (who had to ink it), Vince Evans (who had to paste it up), and George Roussos (who had to color it), who all had to do four times as much work for this one cover. I finally decided I better not try this trick again. (Thanks again to Jeff, Terry, Vince and George.)

Next issue: Perhaps the greatest issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE ever! We'll be previewing the newest mutant title, THE X-MEN, by Chris Claremont and Jim Lee and representing the very first Marvel mutant story from AMAZING ADULT FANTASY #14, by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko! Don't miss this collector's item issue!

— Jim Salicrup

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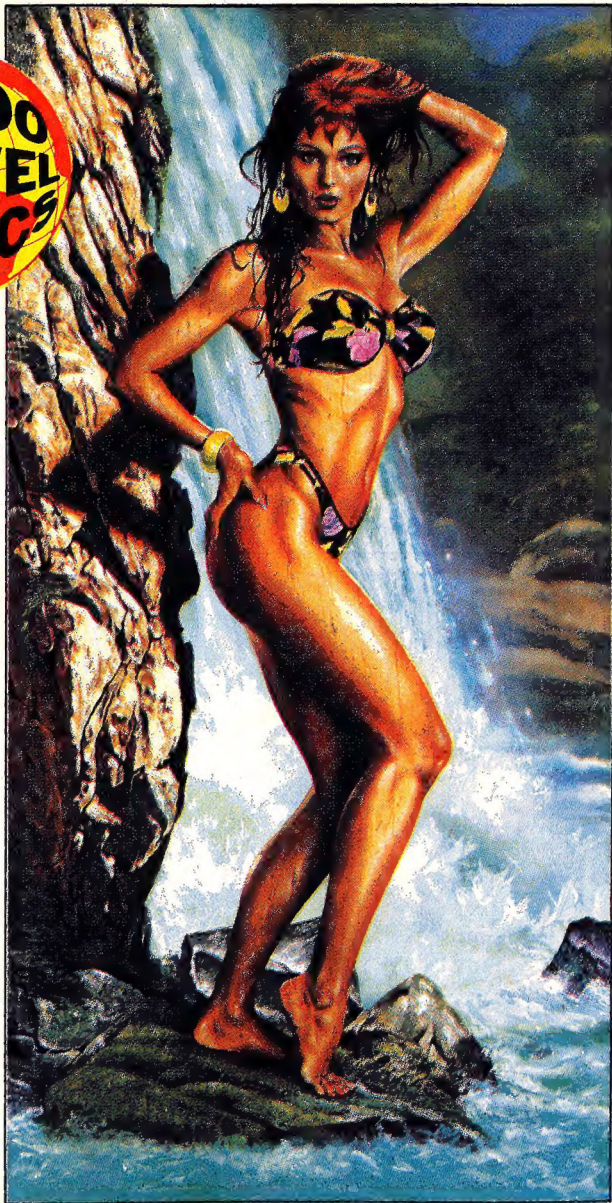
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BEAUTY, THY NAME IS MARY JANE!

ITEM!—and she certainly is! Marvelites the world over were charmed by this year's MARVEL ILLUSTRATED SWIMSUIT SPECIAL, and by Mary Jane Parker's centerfold in particular. Well, there's good news for all MJ's fans, as Marvel is releasing a 30" x 59" poster of the beautifully painted Joe Jusko masterwork. The poster goes for \$12.95, and will be available in early July. And if you missed MARVEL ILLUSTRATED the first time around, it will be made available again the same week!



TO DREAM—THE IMPOSSIBLE MAN! The Impossible Man has been a thorn in the side of many a Marvel hero from the Fantastic Four to the Silver Surfer. In this year's IMPOSSIBLE MAN SUMMER SPECIAL, this grand tradition continues, as Impy must find a missing Poppurian tyke in "One of Our Impkids is Missing!" The Summer Special features short works by many up and coming talents, (and a red hot cover by Michael Golden) and is a nice complement to the heavier-toned storylines like the VON STRUCKER GAMBIT in the other summer annuals. And with the momentum of Impy's comeback from vehicles like last year's Summer Special, a handful of manic appearances in the SILVER SURFER, and our very own MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE calendar, this book is a collector's item in the making!



NO RICK JONES IN THIS BOOK!

ITEM! If you've ever wanted to see the ultimate collection of Marvel stories in one volume, then **THE BEST OF MARVEL COMICS** trade paperback is for you! We asked some of Marvel's top creators which stories they'd like to see reprinted, and to describe why they think these tales are the best. When the ballots came in, there was overwhelming response in favor of **FANTASTIC FOUR #5** (featuring Dr. Doom's first appearance!), **THOR #337** (Walt Simonson's first issue of the Beta Ray Bill Saga), and the **UNCANNY X-MEN #111-112** to name just a few! Writing short introductions to these stories are Stan Lee, Walt Simonson, John Byrne, Todd McFarlane, and Terry Austin.

ALPHA FLIGHT TURNS 100!

ITEM! Our next Alpha bit is big news! The Canadian super team will celebrate their 100th issue with a double-sized conclusion to the "Final Option" storyline. **ALPHA FLIGHT #100** features a galaxy of stars, including the Avengers, Nova, and that big guy with the funny hat, Galactus! The issue is written by the prolific Fabian Nicieza, and various artists lend their skills, including June Brigman, Tom Morgan, Michael Bair, and Dave Ross.

BEFORE SENDING THE GUARDSMAN OVER THE BRINK OF MADNESS, MENTALLO HAD FORCED HIM TO UNLOCK EDDIE BROCK'S CELL.

SO THAT EVEN WITH FLUMMA NOW TEMPORARILY HELPLESS --

A DIFFERENT KIND OF VAULT O' HORRORS!!!

ITEM! July has been a crazy month for the Earth's Mightiest Heroes, the Avengers. Not only are they wrapped up in the Subterranean Odyssey in this

year's Summer Annuals, but in the new graphic novel DEATHTRAP: THE VAULT, they come head to head with Freedom Force (formerly the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants), the Rhino, and Venom! When Earth's mightiest bad guys attempt to break out of the

maximum security Vault, it's up to Cap and the gang to set things right! This graphic novel features Freedom Force's final appearance, so it's a must for mutant fans! The FF's swan song is penciled by red-hot Ron Lim and scripted by Danny (DARKHAWK) Fingerhuth. If you miss this one, you should be locked in the Vault!

TOP TEN LIST

Throughout the history of the Marvel Universe, there has been a collection of maleable characters. That is to say, persons of elastic properties, guys who are sans skeletons, or folks with no bones about 'em! We aren't talking about guys like the Sandman, or Hydro-Man, who at times take the shape of non-human elements. Even Reed Richards doesn't count, because even though he's elastic, he's got a skeleton! So here now, is the Top Ten Marvel Characters With No Bones:

1. The Man-Thing
2. The Glob
3. It, the Living Colossus
4. Eternity
5. Ego
6. Supreme Intelligence
7. The Living Laser
8. X-Ray/Vector, and Vapor of the U-Foes
9. ZZZAAXX
10. Klaw, Master of Sound



Oops! It appears our editor has a bone to pick with us! Seems we should've listed the top ten best-selling Marvel comics for February 1991. Here they are, courtesy of Mr. Lou Bank of our Direct Sales Department.

1. SPIDER-MAN #9
2. NEW MUTANTS #100
3. X-MEN #275
4. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #346
5. MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #73
6. PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #29
7. DARKHAWK #2
8. MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #74
9. GHOST RIDER #12
10. X-FACTOR #13

EPIC-GRAMS

WHY WE HATE TO ANSWER PHONES

We still receive calls here at the Epic offices from out-of-the-loop fans, their stories varying from being lost on a desert island with a band of wacky castaways, to being lost in space... somewhere between Manhattan island and Hoboken, New Jersey. The stories vary, but their questions are the same: whatever happened to EPIC ILLUSTRATED, the premiere magazine of the Epic Age of comics? They're beginning to get suspicious of the gap since the last issue—we sure seem to be taking our sweet time. It's heartbreaking, really.

Well, this is our week to play official Shatterer of Dreams. The book has been canceled now for over four years. What was arguably one of the greatest anthology formats, a book which established the early work of great artistic talents like Kent "Blood" Williams, J "Moonshadow" Muth, and George "Enemy Ace" Pratt, is no more. But there's good news as well: its children are about to be born. And more, they're going to be twins. Congratulations.

WHY WE'RE LAUGHING

On the first, the office is split, nearly evenly, in thirds.

An Elder Faction, harking back to the classically irrelevant sixties, is demanding that it be a quality presentation, of impeccable taste, to attract the connoisseurs of the higher art that Epic has made a name in presenting. As long as it's funny. The New Breed, anxious to give the public the most for their mighty dollar, demand their Epic



fare be heavy on substance, the stuff of which classics are made, and weighed down with less filler. As long as it's funny.

Yet a third faction just thinks everybody is taking the subject of being ridiculous entirely too seriously.

So, one can imagine the storms of controversy that bubble over daily into the office of Editor Fabian Nicieza, editor of the upcoming special EPIC LITE: great taste/less filler/ tastes great/ less serious...

WHY FABIAN IS LOSING HIS HAIR

Fabian has promised this book will change the funny face of comics—and he ought to know.

This one-shot humor anthology is being frantically cobbled and fine-tuned even as we speak, to feature the work of the top independent humor writers and artists with their most famous—and bizarre creations. And, each of the stories and characters presented in the anthology is creator-owned. This promises to be a collection of the best, from the best, Fabian is the proud and expectant godfather. He's intent on putting the baby's best foot forward, hopefully fully supplied with a banana beneath.

WHY THE FABIAN HAS A BIG FLAT FIVE

Kyle Baker, artist-writer famous for his recent novel length comic, WHY I HATE SATURN, is providing the Fabster with excerpts from a current work in progress, the incredible INSTANT PIANO FREQUENTLY. Kyle's cohort in comedy, Evan Dorkin, will be using the same mind that created MILK AND CHEESE, PIRATE CORPS and is currently writing and illustrating the upcoming BILL AND TED'S EXCELLENT COMIC BOOK for Marvel, to create the ultimate situation comedy parody, "The Murder Family." This one'll kill ya.

Fans of cartoonist Rich Rice's famously bewildered bumbling biped, Bob the Alien, won't want to miss the all

new "Bob The Alien's First Loft Party." This time Bob's definitely in over his head—and with a head as big as Bob's, that's saying something.

We'll also have a Normalman adventure by Normalman's abnormal alter ego, Valorous Jim Valentino, guardian of modern satire and GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY writer. We'll follow Normalman as he "goes Hollywood," with events only peripherally reflecting Jim's own experiences in selling his character for television. It's only semi-autobiographical; nothing could be that ridiculous... could it?

We'll round out this collection with a contribution by Mike Kazaleh, of CAPTAIN JACK and MIGHTY MOUSE fame—one of the top artists for the Bakshi Studio, animators of the late lamented NEW MIGHTY MOUSE cartoons. Mike will have a jolly tale of a sweet, cute and cuddly teddy bear... not. "Teddy Dustbin" will change the way you look at adorable stuffed animals, by at least 45 degrees.

Also present and accounted for will be mindfully mirthful meanderings by Scott Saavedra, Hilary Barta, Bob Washington and Steve Buccellato, just a few of the individuals who let comments like "What are you, trying to be funny?" set them onto a career path destined for greatness. And that's not all.

WHY NOT?

Because at this writing, the full 48 page format of this spectacular one-shot hasn't been filled. Who will be the next to commit to this splendid labor of love? How much talent can one book hold? When will its final on-sale date be? Will public response demand this book be made into a regular series? Will Paula realize that the amnesiac Ben is alive and has been living in her basement for the past five years? Stay tuned to this column in future months to find out the answer to some of these and other questions.

Why do you ask?



BOB THE ALIEN, TM & © 1991 Rich Rice

THE TRANSMUTATION OF IKE GARUDA™

Mystery and intrigue in the far-flung future. Editor Marc McLaurin describes it as "Raymond Chandler meets Blade Runner," but you'll describe it as an epic blend of science fiction and mystery. At EPIC Comics presents **THE TRANSMUTATION OF IKE GARUDA**.

Trade and tourism are at an all-time high and the Interplanetary Transit Authority couldn't be happier! Thanks to a corporate developed transportation device, the spaceship has become obsolete. In effect, open trade, world economy, and colonization of new worlds are based upon the teleportation device and its advanced technology.

News of the possibility of a new teleportation device rocks the corporate world. A device that makes instantaneous transportation possible—an invention that would make the old transportation device obsolete! The existence of such a device would threaten the economy of several worlds, if not the entire galaxy! When the prototype unit comes up missing all havoc ensues.

Enter Ike Garuda, Private Investigator! Corporate factions have hired Ike to find the prototype teleportation device before it can fall into the wrong hands. It's the classic race against time amidst the backdrop of a futuristic society. Editor McLaurin elaborated on Ike Garuda by offering, "Ike has done a nice job of getting his life back to normal considering the fact that his mind has been tampered with and he has no memory beyond the past seven

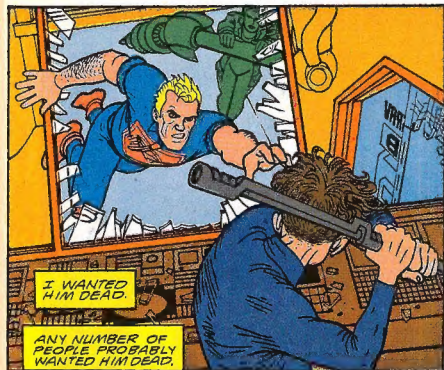
years. His current investigation will lead to conflicts directly related to his past."

The two issue limited series will be available in saddle stitch, bookshelf format and will feature two creators who are no strangers to science fiction. Jim Sherman, whose credits include **SILVER SURFER**, **X-MEN**, **ALPHA FLIGHT**, and **PUNISHER**, will be handling the art assignment. Jim elaborated, "I'm excited about the work because the format allows me to do so much more. In fact, I will not only be doing the pencils but will also be providing the colors in the form of painting my own pencils."

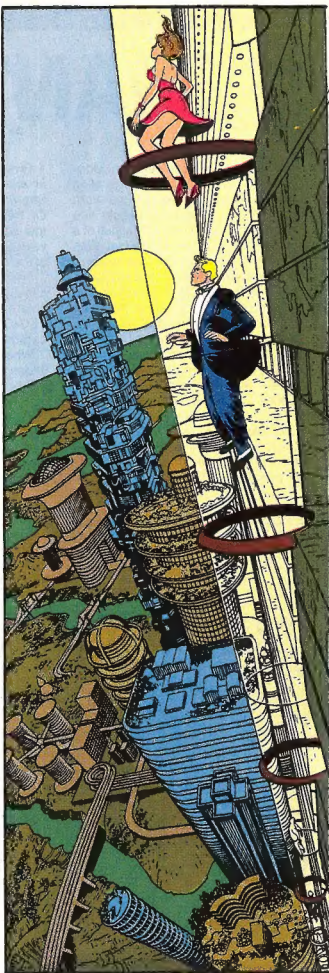
Elaine Lee, the creator of the series **STARSTRUCK** for EPIC Comics, and the author of several plays, will be writing the book. Like most good writers, Elaine's ideas are drawn from real life experiences. While teleportation devices are still a thing of the future, Elaine laughed and stated that "My fascination with instantaneous travel came about because of numerous subway experiences and lost luggage courtesy of various airlines."

This two issue series combines the best of science fiction and mystery genres into a format that is sure to appeal to a broad spectrum of readers. So why not hop, skip, jump, or teleport yourself to the nearest comic shop this July, and pick up **THE TRANSMUTATION OF IKE GARUDA**.

—Charles S. Novinskie



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ALIEN LEGION

TENANTS OF HELL™

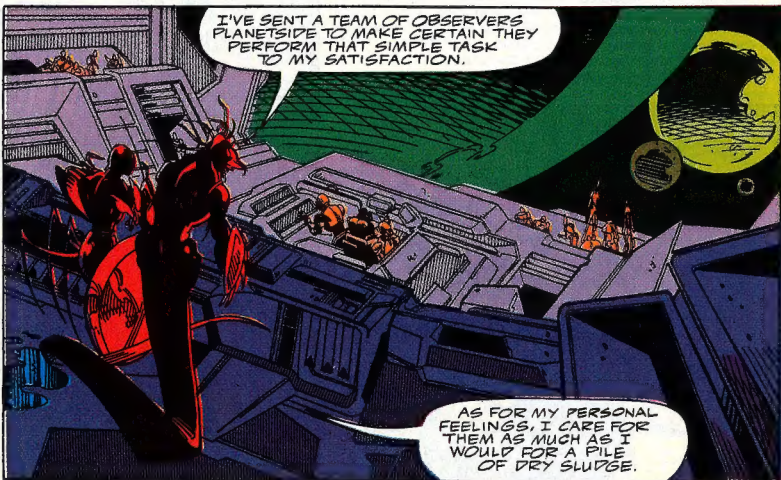
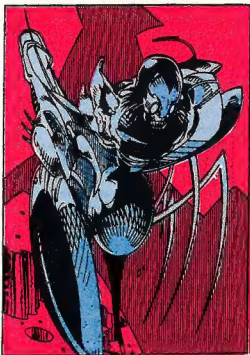
Imagine you've just been involved in a life or death struggle with an alien race of beings known as the Varn Hroth. And during that struggle you were trapped within the orbital pull of a star that has recently gone nova. With only the slimmest hope for survival, you persuade another race of beings known as the B'N No N'ngth to aid you in an effort to break free of the black hole that has you in its clutches. Imagine you've been through all that, and just when you thought it was all over, you are told that while escaping imprisonment in infinity, you've somehow skipped over fifteen years of your life.

This is the dilemma that now faces Force Nomad as they encounter the strange new world of Combine IV fifteen years in the future, where they are truly TENANTS OF HELL.

Brought to you by the creative team of writer Chuck Dixon and artist Larry Stroman, **ALIEN LEGION: TENANTS OF HELL** is a two issue, bookshelf format series, chronicling the further adventures of Force Nomad and the rest of the Alien Legion.

The events of **TENANTS** take place directly after Nomad's harrowing black hole experience, presented in **ALIEN LEGION: ON THE EDGE**, and the Legion will never be the same.

When Nomad returns to real time fifteen years hence, they are assigned to keep the peace on the corporate world of Combine IV, which is owned and operated by the Hallidior Corporation. Hallidior is under attack by a rebel force of civilians who oppose its greedy and totalitarian reign over the planet. But Hallidior Corp. is in trouble.



Their mining operation on Combine IV is a financial disaster, and unknown to the thousands of inhabitants, Hallicorp has decided to cut its losses by destroying the planet and collecting the insurance money. When Nomad discovers this treachery, they are forced to make a decision. Should they faithfully follow their direct orders to aid the Hallicorp Corporation? Or should their alliance now shift to the unwitting natives of Combine IV?

"The main thing that we want to establish (in **TENANTS**) is the changing of the status quo," said **ALIEN LEGION** editor Marc McLaurin. "The fifteen years that have passed have given way to a much harsher future." The Legion itself is now more comprised of battle-hardened men, whose involvement with the Legion is a means to their own selfish whims. But this new attitude of self-centeredness extends further than just the scrubs in the field. The entire Gallarchy has become a harbinger of commercial avarice. Force Nomad must now find a way to fit in in this "new world," with its new breed of Legionnaires.

Some Nomad members will go through changes, while others may not even survive. Juggler Grimrod, the thieving, glory-seeking member of Force Nomad fits in well, at first, with this more barbarous version of the Legion. But he soon finds that the same shadowy characteristics that make him unique in his own time only make him commonplace in this one. And Torie Montroc III will become disillusioned with the Legion altogether, as he and Nomad Commander Sarigar don't see eye to eye. And perhaps the most startling conflict brought on by this time jump deals with Tamara's realization that the young child she left at home fifteen years ago is now a woman in her early twenties. How will she deal with the fact that her own daughter is now a complete stranger to her, robbed of a childhood that should have been spent with her mother? And how will Nomad fare as a team of strangers in a strange land?

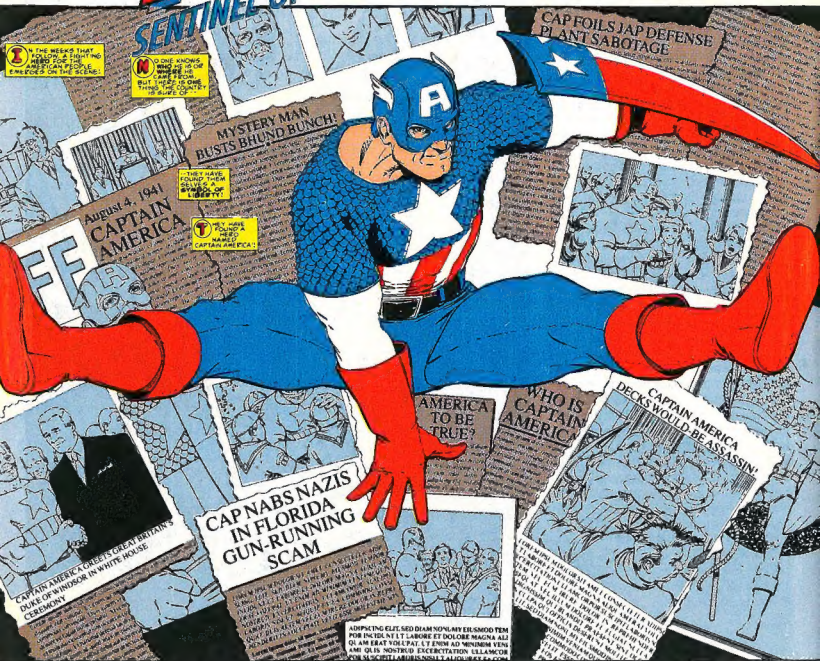
Just when you thought your summer couldn't get any hotter, **ALIEN LEGION: TENANTS OF HELL** will be heating things up this August.

—Tom Daning



THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN AMERICA

SENTINEL OF LIBERTY LIMITED SERIES



Nestled in the shadow of the recent surge of American patriotism we find THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN AMERICA, SENTINEL OF LIBERTY 4-issue limited series, written by Fabian Nicieza and drawn by Kevin Maguire. Though America's newfound patriotic sentimentality and the featuring of this heroic sentinel may seem more than coincidental, they are just that. This tell-all special format series which will reveal the details of Steve Rogers'

transformation from private citizen to public symbol has been in the works for over three years.

The fruits of Kevin and Fabian's labor have borne a well-crafted story set in 1940 which begins as Steve Rogers decides to join the war-effort against Hitler. We are taken through the twists and turns of his army days as we see how Cap ended up on his chosen path.

We are also introduced to a wise-cracking, quick-thinking kid named

Bucky who would be a great asset to an extremely naive Captain America. Fabian sees this Bucky as different from the Bucky of the early Cap stories in that "he's more of a con man. We give a reason why Cap would allow a 14-year-old kid to hang with him."

As is necessary to have a great hero, this story must have a great villain. And it does—the Red Skull. There are also three fascinating psychotic killers called the Killing Squad, who do their

best to live up to their name.

When asked if revealing all the details of Steve Rogers' transformation would weaken the mood of the stories, Editor Mike Rockwitz stressed, "how Rogers became the Sentinel of Liberty is important, but not integral to Cap's adventures. This story is about Cap's motivations to fight evil, a fight he still carries on today."

With this series, Nicieza brings us a grittier Cap than we have previously seen. According to Nicieza, "this is a younger, less experienced fighter who is somewhat at the mercy of his rash actions." Through this action-packed story we see Steve Rogers learn to cope with his new abilities. Though devoted Captain America fans will already know the general direction of Cap's course in life, Nicieza has sacrificed neither excitement nor suspense while filling in the gaps of Captain America's origin.

Cap's enduring philosophy of "crime is crime," whether it be bootlegging, gambling, or murder, has made him as

fitting a symbol for the 90's as Nicieza and Maguire have shown him to be for the 40's. As Editor Rockwitz said, "crime has intensified but Cap's intensity has grown as well." We are not let down, either, when it comes to Cap's most distinguishing and endearing quality. Captain America is the character who ignites that spark of decency within even the worst of us and Cap

proves once again in this story that faith in someone is never truly wasted.

It remains to be seen whether this new information on Cap will be used in his ongoing series, and will probably be left to the discretion of the regular series writer. Either way, Cap fans new or old won't want to miss this one!

—Suzanne Gaffney



ANDY MANGELS' REEL MARVEL



Welcome back to REEL MARVEL, the column which focuses on Marvel's rich history of television and movie adaptations, both past, present, and future.

THE INCREDIBLE HULK may seem the most surprising character to be Marvel's most popular celluloid fantasy, but this modern-day Frankenstein monster remains the ratings champ. He's gone from animation to live-action to animation to live-action again... only to die?

As related in past columns, Grant Simmons and Robert Lawrence joined together in 1965 as Grantray-Lawrence to produce the animated adventures of the MARVEL SUPER-HEROES. The show premiered as a Saturday show on September 2, 1966 in Los Angeles, but was picked up as a daily show on the 12th in Chicago and other cities. CAPTAIN AMERICA was Monday, the INCREDIBLE HULK was Tuesday, IRON MAN was Wednesday, THOR

was Thursday (naturally), and SUB-MARINER was Friday.

The cartoons were very limited in their animation, produced through a process called Xerography. Artwork was transferred directly from Marvel comics onto the animation cels, and then given slight movement by jiggling the cel, or sliding it across a background. Despite the inexpensive process, the show became a major hit, and still remains in syndication today.

THE INCREDIBLE HULK had thirteen three-part episodes (each part was six minutes long), as did the rest of the characters. Sometimes our hero was drawn by Jack Kirby, other times by Bob Powell. Many of the stories were taken from TALES TO ASTONISH and early HULK issues. The Green Goliath fought against such familiar baddies as the Chameleon, the Leader, the Toadmen, Tyrannus, Ringmaster and the Space Phantom!

When the MARVEL SUPER-HEROES show ended, the Hulk retreated into hiding until Kenneth Johnson pitched a live-action INCREDIBLE HULK series to Universal. They decided on two pilot films, to air in 1977. Bill Bixby was cast as Dr. David Bruce Banner (His name was changed from Bruce because nervous TV executives felt that "Bruce" sounded too stereotypically gay!), and two-time Mr. Universe Lou Ferrigno was cast as the Hulk. Jack Colvin appeared as reporter Jack McGee, a recurring role when the series proper began.

THE INCREDIBLE HULK premiered on November 4th, 1977, to great ratings. Viewers caught on quickly to the tragic and lonely figure of Banner, while finding some wish-fulfillment in the super-strong Hulk. The second pilot film aired November 28th, and CBS gave an almost immediate green-light to get the series going for a mid-season replacement.

Thus it was that the INCREDIBLE HULK gained a weekly one-hour slot on March 10th, 1978. It was a series that would become one of the most popular super hero shows ever on TV. In its five seasons, the show picked up an Emmy award (1979—Mariette Hartley for Best Dramatic Performance) and a horde of fans. Universal Studios even introduced a HULK show as part of their studio tour; this writer was an audience member in a makeup show wherein the Hulk charged out and through the audience.

Three years later, upon my return to Universal Studios, I was one of the audience volunteers who were used in the interactive stage shows. My role? The unnamed man who was strapped to a torture device, writhed in agony, disappeared behind a wall, and came smashing out as the Hulk! Unfortunately, being tied to a revolving platform which now faced away from the audience, I didn't get to see my green-



The Hulk and Thor (Eric Kramer) pose down in "Return of the Incredible Hulk."

skinned alter ego do his thing, but then, neither did Dr. Banner!

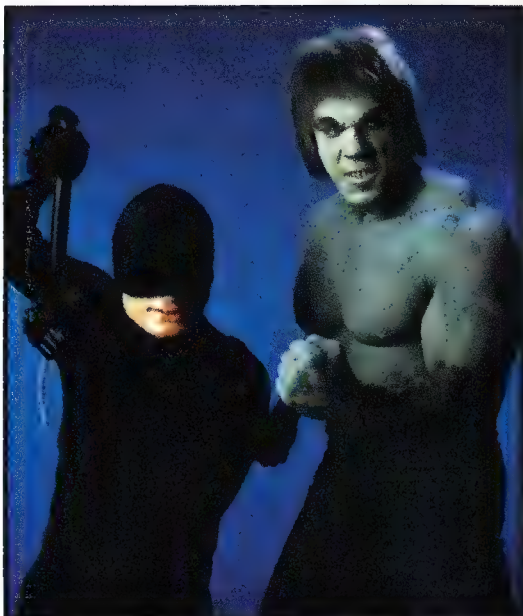
Back to the TV show. **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** was formulaic, but poignantly so. Banner was always getting involved in social crisis, during which the Hulk's appearances would both help and hinder. As each show ended, he roamed the highways of America, on the run from a world that thought him dead, the hounding reporter Jack McGee, and the repercussions of his last Hulk-out. Rarely did a show regularly tug on the heart-strings as much as the HULK did; Bixby's soulful gaze and lonely manner and Ferrigno's confused and hurt anger affected most viewers.

THE INCREDIBLE HULK finally ended its run on May 12th, 1982, but the jade giant was not to remain off the air too long. The show went into syndication and reruns, and that fall an animated HULK show debuted. After having made a guest-appearance on **SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS** in 1981, **THE INCREDIBLE HULK AND SPIDER-MAN** started on NBC September 18th, 1982. Each show had a half-hour HULK adventure and a half-hour SPIDER-MAN adventure. Thirteen episodes of the HULK were produced, narrated by Stan Lee, and featuring Betty Ross and sidekick Rick Jones. The episodes placed Bruce Banner back with the military, hoping to contain his Hulk rage and find a cure.

The HULK cartoons were action-packed, but lacked the emotional resonance of the live-action show. The writers tended to write down to their audience (a common enough plight for Saturday morning TV shows), and padded the shows with extended fights rather than plot. The eleventh episode was special though: it spotlighted a fairly new Marvel super-heroine, the She-Hulk! Banner's cousin, Jennifer Walters was not seen again on the series.

The following year, the show changed its name to **SPIDER-MAN AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK**, and although new **SPIDER-FRIENDS** episodes were produced, the HULK was once again in reruns.

When New World Pictures bought Marvel, they looked at many Marvel properties as potential television series. But how to debut the heroes on TV without fighting the normal pilot show hang-ups? The most logical choice was to catch up with David Banner, still wandering the country afraid of Huling-out. Thus it was that NBC premiered **THE RETURN OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK** on May 22nd, 1988, with another hero fighting by the side of the Hulk: The Mighty Thor. Few fans would warm to a Norse viking being passed off a Thunder God, though Eric Kramer played the role in a jocular enough



Rex Smith as Daredevil, and Lou Ferrigno as the Hulk, from NBC's "Trial of the Incredible Hulk."

manner. Thor never appeared again, and plans for a Thor television series were dropped.

Still, ratings were high on the film, and NBC held the **TRIAL OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK** one year later on April 30th, 1989, in which Banner became involved with blind lawyer Matt Murdock, secretly Daredevil (both played by Rex Smith), and his fight against the Kingpin (John Rhys Davies). Again, ratings were high, but the network shied away from adding another super hero series to their schedule, and the plans were dropped once again.

New World had planned to use the next three films to introduce She-Hulk, Wolverine, and Iron Man, but decided to make the next film the final one of the series. **THE DEATH OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK** aired on February 18th, 1990, directed by Bixby himself.

The final film found Banner tremendously close to a cure for his condition when a lover betrayed him and terrorists attacked. The Hulk made a final sacrifice, and fell from an exploding airplane to the waiting airfield below. He broke his neck, and as he reverted back to Dr. Banner, said quietly to his girlfriend "I'm a free man now." Then, surrounded by friends, he died.

New World hasn't given up hope on

green-skinned characters, however, and was ready to start work on a telefilm called **METAMORPHOSIS**. This flashback story would find Banner giving a blood transfusion to a young woman who becomes—you guessed it—the She-Hulk. Unfortunately, with casting in progress, plans were scrapped and the project died.

While rumors of **THE REBIRTH OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK** surface often, Bixby has no plans to continue the series, although Ferrigno wouldn't mind. Meanwhile, another production company is attempting to find backing for a **SHE-HULK** film starring Brigitte Nielsen as the jade giantess!

HULK fans wishing to view the show can find **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** pilot film and **RETURN OF THE INCREDIBLE HULK** out on video from MCA, for rental or purchase (ask your video store to special order them). Several HULK cartoons have been released by Prism, and although they are out of print, many rental stores still stock them.

Next month, we continue our green spotlight as the Incredible Hulk waxes eloquent! No, this isn't an excellent Peter David story, but an interview with strongman Lou Ferrigno. Find out why it's not easy being green, right here at **REEL MARVEL!**

MARVEL[®] LICENSING

"NEW PVC's and PORCELAIN BISQUES"

It seems that next to our comics, the things that have received the most enthusiasm and comments from our fans are the Marvel PVC's and porcelain bisques. In fact, when it comes to the PVC's especially, hardly a day goes by without us receiving letters filled with comments, long lists of characters we should do next, and questions on where Marvelites can get the figures they've missed. The porcelain bisques have really impressed Marvelites as well — especially those (including this reporter) who initially thought a "porcelain bisque" was some weird kind of soup!

A quick check in the dictionary revealed that "bisque" is a fancy grade of porcelain, which makes sense considering how special these figures are. That said, let's get down to the nuts and bolts (nouns and verbs?) of this article — what is the latest information on the new bisques and PVC's? And is there a chance to get any of the figures that you may have missed? Let's talk about the PVC, or Poly Vinyl Chloride, figures first.

On that front there's great news! Not only are there new figures, but we're also planning to re-release some of your old favorites! The newest members of this esteemed collection are the Ghost Rider and Magneto — and wait! You see them! Fans have said that with each new release our PVC's keep getting better and better. The detailing in this duo is the best yet — right down to the individual links on the Ghost Rider's chain!

Remember we mentioned the return of some of the most popular figures? Well, we weren't kidding! Back again are the first Spider-Man, Captain America, and Thing PVC's. And mutant



Original design sketch for the Storm PVC figure, and below, two views of Wolverine. Original layouts by Ron Frenz, and finished renderings by Rodney Ramos.

lovers have another reason to celebrate — (beside this month's dramatic climax to the MUTANT GENESIS Saga) and that's the re-issue of both the first and second super-popular Wolverine figures! The Storm, Nightcrawler, Marvel Girl, Colossus, and Captain Britain PVC's complete the collection. With the suggested retail price of each modestly set at \$3.99, it's

a great way to add pizzazz to your comic book collection.

And speaking of pizzazz, the new Spider-Man and Punisher porcelain bisques are something else! Some of the toughest critics we've had of the whole bisque program are right here in the Marvel Bullpen. Even *they* have been impressed with the high quality, the drama and the detail, that are in the





Gambit and Cable, by Frenz and Ramos.

Spidey and Punisher bisques. No wonder, because the Spidey figure was based on original design sketches from John Romita, Sr.!

Everyone from Special Projects Executive Editor Bob Budiansky and his staff, Bonny Berryman and Gloria Birulin of the Marvel Domestic Licensing Department (who oversee the program), even the sculptors and painters, have all really knocked themselves out! Using

their skills and the lessons they've learned from making the previous bisques, they've made these two figures the best yet. It's all there — from such touches as the drama in Spider-Man's ready-for-action crouch to the Punisher's snarl!

Each bisque comes with a cherry wood stand, a certificate of authenticity and is priced at \$49.95. As with the previous releases these are strictly

limited editions. Only 7,500 Spider-Man and 5,000 Punisher figures were created, and are available only at select comic book specialty stores.

So if you've been looking to add a new dimension to your collection, consider the *third* dimension with Marvel's PVC's and bisques! (Ouch! Sorry!)

— Dwight Jon Zimmerman



A MARVEL AGE exclusive! John Romita's design sketches for the Christmas Hulk PVC figure!



STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes,

Glad to have you aboard again because, as I told you last ish, I've a very special announcement for Marveldom Assembled—in fact, it's so important that I don't even mind if our Distinguished Competition takes a squint at it! Y'see, this affects the whole nation, and probably even the human race! Of course, if you happen to be a Martian, you can be excused—as long as you raised your hand!

Anyway, here's the skinny. It'll come as no surprise to you that we are not educating our children as well as we should. Too many kids, especially in the inner cities, are dropping out of school in ever-increasing numbers; and many of those remaining in school aren't learning as much as they should. There are many reasons, of course, and perhaps one of the most important can be summed up in one word—which I'll tell you in a minute!

Here's something to chew on for a while. Kids are the most gregarious people in the world. That is, they love being with other kids. They hate being alone with nothing to do. They're happiest in the company of their peers. Right? You know it!

Also, a young mind is a miraculous thing. It can store up new knowledge and information like a sponge! All kids have boundless curiosity, insatiable appetites for learning and gathering new facts about the world around them!

Then why do so many of them hate going to school? There's no better place to be with lots of other kids.

There's no better place to soak up new knowledge and absorb new and exciting information. So why don't kids everywhere jump out of bed on Monday morning, gleefully shouting, "Yay! The weekend's over! I can go back to school at last! I'll be with all the other kids today! Yeahhhhh! All riiiiight! Excelsior! Va voooom!"

Here's the one-word answer I promised you—

Boredom!

When kids start school they're bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, thrilled by the excitement of it all. And then what happens? Boredom sets in! They're told to sit quietly, like a bunch of comic book robots, while the teacher drones on and on, giving them names and places and dates to write down and memorize!

It's not the teachers' fault. They do what they're supposed to do. It's not the schools' fault. They're just doing it the way it's been done for many decades. It's not the parents' fault. They have to



assume that the educators know what they're doing. It's nobody's fault, and it's everybody's fault, because we're not remedying the situation—until now!

The good old U.S. of A. leads the world in entertainment. All around the globe, people can't get enough of our movies, music, books, TV shows, comics, sports and art! If it involves entertainment, we're the experts!

Now then, what if our great skills for entertainment were harnessed for the sake of our schools? What if America's greatest artists, writers, comedians, rock stars, athletes, actors, directors and producers pooled their prodigious

talents into an organization whose sole purpose would be to make school more interesting, more relevant, and more exciting for students? If anyone on earth can do it, they can!

Now here's the best part. Such a project is already under way. It's called "Entertainers for Education," and almost every big name in show biz, music, art and sports is climbing aboard! Together with the most prominent authorities in the field of education, we're starting to explore every possible means of taking boredom out of the classrooms, so that attending school will be the exciting, stimulating experience it should be! In short, we'll be working our butts off to make kids look forward to attending class, to make schools hip and cool and relevant and, above all else—**not boring!**

It's a big task. It's a mighty tough job. It won't be accomplished overnight. But, once we get the ball rolling, we'll be rivaling our own super heroes when it comes to making the world a better place for us all!

And I'll bet that's the very last thing you ever expected to read in the ol' Soapbox! I didn't even mention the word Marvel! But, it's my page and I can do whatever I want, so I'll make up for that grievous oversight right now! Here goes: Marvel! Marvel! Marvel! Marvel! Marvel! Marvel! Marvel! Marvel! Marvel! Lucky for you I'm not getting paid by the word, or this would continue all the way to the back cover!

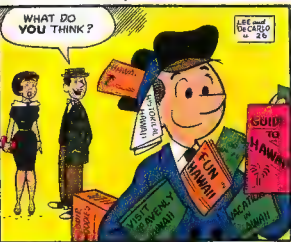
Before I forget, in next month's MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, we'll be reprinting an almost forgotten story which Steve Ditko and I created many years ago—a tale about a mutant that was a forerunner of today's best-selling X-MEN! Don't dare miss it!

Well, now that we've changed the course of education for centuries to come, all that remains is to commit this pair of imperishable words to memory—"Docendo discimus!" But do it fast, y'hear?—before it becomes boring!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

WILLIE LUMPKIN



STAN AND DAN'S CLASSIC COMIC STRIP FROM THE FABULOUS FIFTIES

© 1991 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo

MANY FACES OF THE VISION™

Ever since he burst on the scene in AVENGERS #57, the Vision has been a character shrouded in mystery. Throughout a raging controversy as to

whether or not he was the original Human Torch (which he was not), the android with the heart of gold continued to be a fan favorite. Here are

several renderings of "the Vizh" by some of Marvel's top talents.



1. John Buscema and George Klien (AVENGERS #57)
2. Sal Buscema (AVENGERS #89)
3. Neal Adams (AVENGERS #96)
4. Rich Buckler and Joe Sinnott (AVENGERS #113)

5. Jack Kirby and Dick Ayers (AVENGERS #152)
6. George Perez and Pablo Marcos (AVENGERS #161)
7. Richard Howell and Joe Sinnott (VISION AND SCARLET WITCH #12)
8. John Romita, Jr. and Terry Austin (MARVEL TEAM-UP #130)

9. Bob Hall and Joe Sinnott (AVENGERS #251)
10. John Byrne (WEST COAST AVENGERS #44)
11. Steve Lightle (AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #40)
12. John Byrne (WEST COAST AVENGERS #45)

THE FRED HEMBECK SHOW

HI AGAIN, EVERYONE!
I'M **FRED HEMBECK**, AND TODAY WE'RE COMING TO YOU FROM THE SET OF A BRAND NEW **HOLLYWOOD MOVIE**! WE'RE HERE TO SPEAK WITH THE **STAR** OF THAT MOVIE, **SIMON WILLIAMS**, PERHAPS BETTER KNOWN TO YOU FOLKS AT HOME AS THE **AVENGER** CALLED---

...**WONDER MAN**!!

GREETINGS, SIMON!

HELLO, FRED. THANKS FOR HAVING ME ON YOUR SHOW.

MY PLEASURE, SIMON. LET'S DISCUSS YOUR **CAREER**--- THINGS ARE GOING **GREAT** NOW, AREN'T THEY? FOR STARTERS, MARVEL WILL BEGIN PUBLISHING AN **ON-GOING MONTHLY WONDER MAN COMIC BOOK** IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE...

YES, I'M VERY FORTUNATE.

...AND YOU CAN BE A POPULAR **ACTION** AS YOU OUT... **OF** TUA FILMS LIKE...

(um, WHAT DID YOU SAY THE TITLE OF THIS ONE IS?..)

OKAY, OKAY, SO **MAYBE** I MADE A MISTAKE, BUT SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO **PAY** FOR YOUR PRINCIPLES, Y'KNOW? NOW, IN THIS MOVIE, I DON'T FLY, AND THAT'S A **START**, RIGHT?..

LOOK, I JUST WANT SERIOUSLY BY HOLY I'M TIRED OF BEING IN WITH **SCHWARZ STALLONE, MORRI** DAMME---

HEY!! REMEMBER WHERE YOU ARE, SIMON.

um, YES, I SUPPOSE IT IS... SORTA...

THAT'S BETTER.

EYEBALLS! BOB, JACK AND DUSTY--THEY'VE ALL GOT EYEBALLS! I MEAN, CAN YOU IMAGINE THEM PLAYING THOSE ROLES **WITHOUT** EYEBALLS?? HEY, IT'S JUST NOT GONNA WORK, Y'KNOW? (OKAY, OKAY, **MAYBE** HOFFMAN COULD'VE PULLED IT OFF, BUT THAT WAS A ONE OF A KIND ROLE, HE COULDN'T'VE DONE "TOOTSIE" **WITHOUT** EYEBALLS!)

YOU KNOW WHAT BIG FELLA--THE **THE WINDOWS** TO AND ALL THAT. LI IT, IF THAT'S **THE YOURS** IS BOARD

TINUE TO
DRAW IN
VENTURE
CHURN
N OUT

ah,
"BIG BAD
LUTHERICKERS
AST BAZOOKA"
BUT THAT'S
ST THE WORK-
ING TITLE...

A "B" MOVIE IN MORE WAYS
THAN ONE, OH? STILL, THAT'S
QUITE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT
FOR A MAN WHO STARTED OUT
AS A TOP INDUSTRIALIST, ONLY
TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO A
SUPERPOWERED VILLAIN WHOSE
REDEMPTION CAME IN A SELF-
LESS SACRIFICE OF YOUR VERY
LIFE! YOU WERE DEAD,
SIMON, DEAD!

YEAH, BUT I GOT
BETTER.

FOLLOWING YOUR TRIUMPH-
ANT RENAISSANCE, YOU EMBARKED
UPON YOUR BRILLIANT CAREER
AS AN AVENGER, AND THEN,
WELL, FOR AN INDUSTRIALIST,
YOU MAKE A PRETTY GOOD
ACTOR, BUT--

BUT
MY RANGE IS LIMITED,
HMM? THAT IS YOUR
IMPLICATION, IS IT
NOT?

WELL, THAT'S JUST NONSENSE!
I'M LIMITED BY THE PARTS
I'M OFFERED! JUST BECAUSE
I'VE GOT THESE SUPER POWERS,
DO I HAVE TO BE THE ONE
TO GET EVERY SCRIPT
THAT HAS ANY FLYING IN
IT, FOR GOSH SAKES??

..MAYBE
CHRIS REEVE'S
NUMBER IS
UNLISTED...

IN FACT, I BECAME SO SICK
OF THE SITUATION THAT I'VE
RECENTLY MADE IT MY POLICY
TO TURN DOWN ANY AND ALL
SCRIPTS THAT CALLED FOR ME
TO FLY. WHA, I EVEN SAID
NO TO THAT MOVIE ABOUT
THE MOUSEKETEER WITH
THE ROCKET PACK...

Huh? YOU TURNED THAT
DOWN?? BUT ISN'T
THAT A BIG BUDGET,
BIG DEAL, "A"
MOVIE??

TO BE TAKEN
DOWN, OH, AND
G LUMPED
RENEGGER,
S, AND VAN

SORRY.
VAN DARY.

MY POINT IS, I WANT THE
OPPORTUNITY TO PROVE ONCE
AND FOR ALL THAT I SHOULD BE
THOUGHT OF WITH THE LIVES
OF DENIRO, HOFFMAN, AND
NICHOLSON. HEY, IF MY ACTING
CAN CUT IT, I DON'T SEE ANY
REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T
BE OFFERED THE SAME TYPE
QUALITY ROLES THEY'RE
OFFERED, DO YOU FRED? HUH?
DO YOU?..

WELL...
UH...

NO, NO, GO ON-- DON'T HOLD
BACK. I'M CURIOUS TO HEAR
ANY POTENTIAL CRITICISM YOU COULD
POSSIBLY HAVE SO THAT I MIGHT
DISPEL ANY LINGERING DOUBTS.
IN FACT, TOWARDS THAT END,
I'M PREPARED TO DO A LITTLE
HAMLET FOR YOU. AREM... TO BE
OR NOT TO --??

GEE, THAT'S
SWEET OF YOU, BUT IT REALLY
WOIN'T BE NECESSARY, NEH...
BECAUSE ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT
THE QUALITY OF YOUR
ACTING ABILITY THAT
TROUBLES ME...

IT'S NOT...

UH UH.

NOW, LET'S WORK
UNDER THE ASSUMPTION
THAT YOUR THEATRICIAN TAL-
ENTS ACTUALLY ARE A
MATCH FOR ANY OF THE
AFOREMENTIONED GENTLE-
MEN PERFORMING THEIR
GREATEST ROLES...

...HARD TO
BELIEVE AS
THAT MIGHT
BE...

WHICH IS??

THEY SAY,
EYES ARE
THE SOUL,
IT'S FACE
CASE, I
ED UP

I HATE TO BE THE ONE TO
BREAK IT TO YOU, WONDER
GUY, BUT ACTORS-- REAL
ACTORS, ANYWAY-- DEPEND
HEAVILY ON THEIR EYES.
IN THAT DEPARTMENT, I'M
AFRAID TO SAY, YOU COME
UP SHORT BY TWO, OH.
SURE, THE EYELESS LOOK
IS PROBABLY GOOD FOR
AN "EXORCIST" SEQUEL
OR TWO, BUT--

IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET
BACK TO WORK. GOODBYE.

Oh, ah, SURE, THANKS
FOR STOPPING BY. OUR
AUDIENCE IS ALWAYS
INTERESTED IN HEAR-
ING WHAT SIMON SAYS.
AND GOOD LUCK WITH
THE COMIC-- AND THE
MOVIE! I'LL TRY AND
CATCH IT WHEN IT COMES
OUT...

...OR MORE
LIKELY, REWIND
IT DOWN AT MY
VIDEO STORE...
neh...

WELL, THAT
WENT PRETTY
WELL--

--DIDN'T
IT?

SEE YOU ALL NEXT MONTH/
IN THE MEANTIME, WHEN
YOU'RE DOWN AT YOUR LOCAL
COMICS EMPORIUM PICKING
UP THE FIRST EXCITING
ISSUE OF *WONDER MAN*,
YOU MIGHT SEARCH ABOUT
FOR THE AMUSING ANTIQUE
OF PETER PARKER LOOKING
BEFORE HE BECAME SPIDER-
MAN-- MOST RECENTLY TO
BE FOUND WITHIN THE PAGES
OF *MARVEL TALES* 248, 251,
252 AND SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN Annual #11!!

I'LL BE
GLAD YOU
DID!

(HEY, THIS
IS MY
SHOP-- I
SHOULD
BE ABLE
TO PLUG
MYSELF
ONCE IN
AWHILE,
RIGHT?)

MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ



One of the greatest things about the Marvel Universe is that you never know who will become a star! Even though the cover of AVENGERS #9 introduced Wonder Man as the "newest, most surprising character from the House of Ideas," it would be over ten years before Wonder Man returned to the Avengers! Okay, so he was a slow starter. It's hard to make a comeback when you die in your first appearance. So let's give the guy a break and focus on the following Wonder Man Trivia Quiz, okay? Just don't wait ten years for the answers; they're on page 32!

—Brian Nelson

1. Who nearly killed the seemingly immortal Wonder Man by aging him to the point of death?

- A. The Stranger
- B. Immortus
- C. Tempus
- D. The Internal Revenue Service

2. On the set of which television program did the Beast battle an enchanted Wonder Man?

- A. The Tonight Show
- B. The Arsenio Hall Show
- C. Saturday Night Live
- D. Beauty and the Beast

3. And on which other television show did Simon Williams arrange for

the Avengers to appear?

- A. Donahue
- B. The Oprah Winfrey Show
- C. Late Nite with David Letterman
- D. My Mother the Car

4. Simon's plan to prevent the West Coast Avengers from being lost in time involved:

- A. Penetrating the compound of Kang the Conqueror
- B. Traveling back in time to ancient Egypt
- C. Using the spirit powers of the Phantom Rider
- D. Getting help from Marty McFly

5. Which of these humiliating events has NOT happened to Wonder Man?

- A. Getting creamed with pies on a kid's TV show?
- B. Regurgitating a hyperatomic anti-proton cannon
- C. Fighting a giant mutated bunny
- D. Delivering pizza to four mutated turtles

6. As a baby sitter for their "children," Wanda and the Vision used the services of Wonder Man's mother:

- A. Martha Williams
- B. Esther Williams
- C. Kathy Williams
- D. Vanessa Williams

7. Simon once found more respectable employment outside the Avengers as security analyst for:

- A. The Brand Corporation
- B. Cordco Incorporated
- C. Roxxon Oil
- D. Beatrice Foods

8. What nemesis was prevented from taking over the minds of children by a team-up of Wonder Man and the Thing?

- A. The Puppet Master
- B. Xennu the Titan
- C. Mojo
- D. Mister Rogers

9. Wonder Man was resurrected as a zombie by:

- A. Brother Voodoo
- B. The Yellow Claw
- C. The Black Talon
- D. George A. Romero

10. Who cared for Simon Williams' body before he returned to life?

- A. The Vision
- B. Ultron-5
- C. The Grim Reaper
- D. Cryogenics-'R'-Us

11. In his classic debut tale, where did Wonder Man "die"?

- A. In a cavern in South America
- B. In a graveyard in New Orleans
- C. In Avengers Mansion
- D. In the newspaper reviews

12. What form of treatment did Baron Zemo employ to turn Simon Williams into Wonder Man?

- A. Z-Rays
- B. Vita Rays
- C. Ionic Rays
- D. Ironic Rays

WONDER MAN



Simon Williams was born in a modest home in Paterson, New Jersey. His family owned the successful Williams Innovations, a munitions factory, and his siblings are the Grim Reaper and the Vision. He has fought the Avengers,

died, come back to life, become an Avenger, and battled such baddies as Graviton and Ultron. Now, Simon faces his toughest challenge yet—to make it big in show business.

In Marvel's new WONDER MAN

series, Simon's adventures in Hollywood are chronicled by Gerard Jones, Jeff Johnson, Terry Austin, and Fabian Nicieza. As the first issue opens, Simon has troubles with Goliath, a forty-foot tall maniac obsessed with

destroying everyone's favorite hero.

As if that wasn't bad enough, it turns out that Goliath was sicced on Simon by his own agent as a publicity stunt! Simon also has problems with his "mediagenic love interest," the slyly seductive Ginger Beach. And as if all this weren't enough to make your average hero nuts, Simon has become an "action hero" media darling, when all he wants is to be an actor with substance. The only problem is, according to Ginger, "Nobody wants substance, they want big hunks beating each other's brains out!" According to writer Gerard Jones, it's the classic case of someone being very successful in something he isn't very interested in.

"Ginger's pretty much into the L.A. scene," artist Jeff Johnson said, "She's living the celluloid movie life, and doesn't have a lot of emotional depth. I don't want to say that she's just a vixen, but her primary motivations are financial and status."

Amidst the sleazy backdrop of the underbelly of Hollywood, WONDER MAN is a study in contrasts between the rich show biz elite and the bums on the sidewalk. "We're trying to play up the bizarre, unreal L.A. world. Simon sees all the superficiality of Hollywood with an outsider's view." Jeff commented, "It's such a weird environ-

ment. Gerard gives me a lot of photo references, which really gives the work the flavor of L.A."

"L.A. is a complex place," writer Gerard Jones said in a telephone interview. "It's an oddball-fashionable world. On the one hand it's too perfect, too pretty, but it's also too shallow. Under that veneer is a city filled with working class families, immigrants, and the poor. It's a melting pot that doesn't quite melt; a place people go for instant success."

As if battling menaces such as Goliath weren't taxing enough, Simon finds himself constantly hounded by the press. "The media is definitely a supporting character," said Jeff, "and it's one of the things Simon hates most about L.A. His life is an open book to everyone."

"I don't want to use the media as a narrative device, like in DARK KNIGHT. They're more like these ridiculous figures running around, mucking things up for Simon," Gerard said. "If I went the other way with it, it would be an endorsement of that TV news approach to reality. TV news rarely deals with what's really going on."

This seems to be one of the trap-pings of fame. Although, as Jeff pointed out, "Simon's a beefcake kind of guy, but it still hasn't been proven that he can act. You don't see Arnold doing a lot of DeNiro roles." (Marvelites may recall a recent issue of SHE-HULK set in a Hollywood movie studio where Simon couldn't get a role as a super hero!)

Gerard was more optimistic for Simon's career as an actor. "He'll land that meaty role, eventually. But it probably won't turn out the way he wants. The fame he seeks will always be just out of reach. Acting helps Simon deal with the split in Wonder Man himself. He wants to be seen as someone with substance, but most folks just see him as a big hunk. He hasn't had much of an identity, only a nebulous sense of self. Ever since he transformed from a human being to an ionic being, he's been wondering who he is. He hopes to create a new identity for himself through the movies."

As for finding a "significant other" for Wondy, that remains to be seen. "He still holds a torch for the Scarlet Witch," Jeff says, "but women aren't a deep concern for him right now. And it's not written in stone that he and Ginger will be an item."

"I'll be introducing a screenwriter named Alex (short for Alexandra) in the second issue. Each of these two women will be counterpoints to the things Simon's attracted to," Gerard hinted. "I'd also like to bring the Beast in from New York to visit Simon occasionally. I enjoyed the dynamic friendship they had in the AVENGERS book. I think it'd be fun to have the New York friend commenting on the absurdities of Hollywood. I'm gonna play him as the intelligent guy that he is. Sometimes that part of Hank gets lost."

The new WONDER MAN book boasts some beautiful artwork. "Having Terry Austin ink my work was a dream come true," Jeff said. "I'm still learning, and he makes my work come out crisp, perfect, and real. He adds real flair. I've always loved comics, and this is the fulfillment of a lifelong goal. Of course, now I've got those deadlines to worry about."

Like many supporting characters, Wonder Man has been handled by many diverse talents over the years. Now, Jones and Johnson have coalesced the many threads of Simon Williams' life into a fully realized character.

"I'd like to maintain a balance of humor, action, and character. I know a lot of writers say that! I'd like to bring out the things in Wonder Man's head that make him unique—it won't just be Hollywood jokes!"

Poor Simon. All he wants to do is r,ake some Wonder bread.

—Mike Lackey



WONDER MAN™ PREVIEW

And now for our special preview of
WONDER MAN, by Gerry Jones, Jeff
Johnson, and Terry Austin.



DO YOU
HEAR ME? DO
YOU *HEAR*
ME? I
WANT YOUR
LIFE!

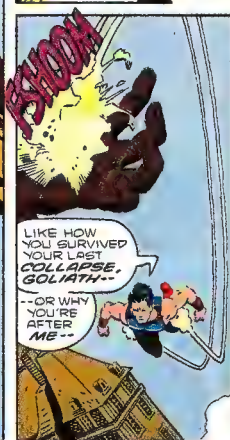
I
HEAR
YOU! I
HEAR
YOU!



--OR HOW YOU
LEARNED MY NEW
ADDRESS--

KRAK

--THE
DAY
AFTER
I
MOVED!



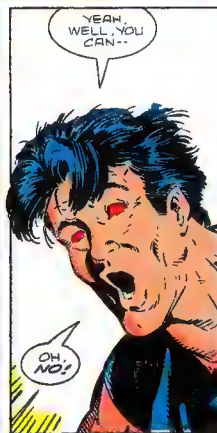
LIKE HOW
YOU SURVIVED
YOUR LAST
COLLAPSE,
GOLIATH--

--OR WHY
YOU'RE
AFTER
ME--



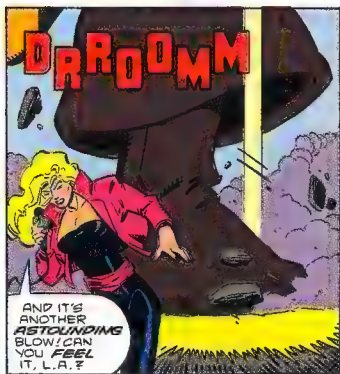
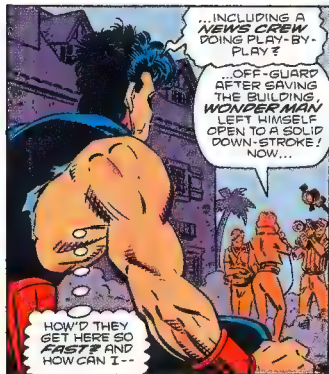
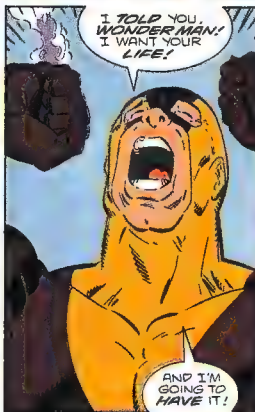
WELL?

I WANT
YOUR
LIFE!
I WANT
YOUR
LIFE!

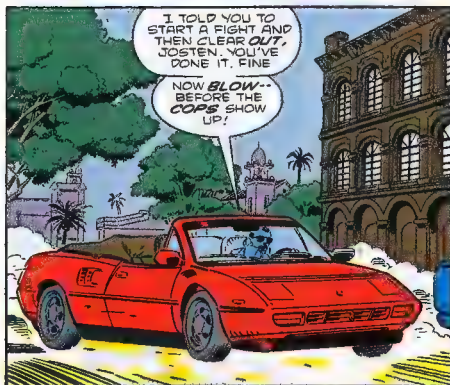
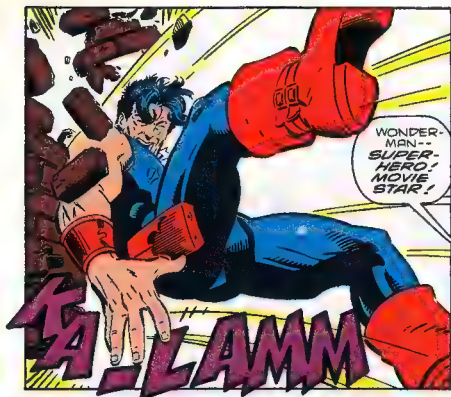


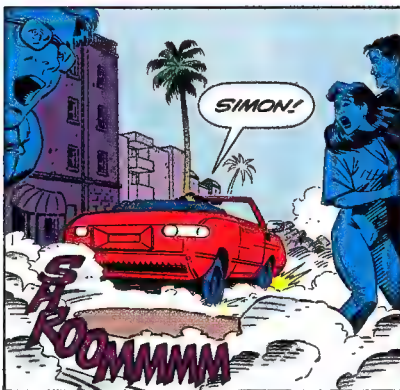
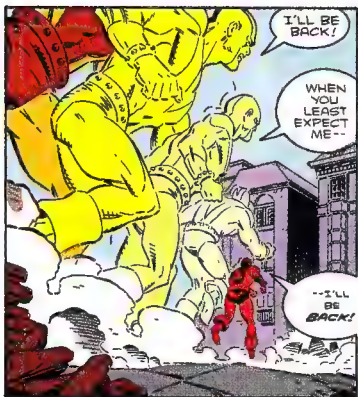
YEAH,
WELL YOU
CAN--

OH
NO!









WONDER MAN goes on sale July 9th! Don't miss it!

THE MARVEL AGE[®] OF COMICS 1984 PART THREE

Though 1984 was the year of the biggest limited series of all (the first SECRET WARS), Marvel madmen made full use of the possibilities of the limited series! Limited series could showcase new characters or little-known characters, reprint great tales from the past, adapt theatrical films into comics form, or serve as launch

pads for new series (as in the case of WEST COAST AVENGERS, which we mentioned two months back).

A handful of limited series that began in 1983 saw their astonishing climaxes in the year of George Orwell. MAGIK chronicled Ilyana's apprenticeship to the demon sorcerer Belasco, with the aid of Chris Claremont and John Buscema. Both Storm and Cat met death in the underworld of Limbo, as Peter Rasputin's little sister endured more than any child should suffer.

CLOAK AND DAGGER's first limited series disclosed the full secrets of their awesome origin, while Tom DeFalco and Mary Wilshire ended RED SONJA's limited series with sword-and-sorcery action as befits the Hyborian She-Devil. The FALCON's limited series not only saw him defeat Electro, but rescue the President of the United States. (All right, you Democrats, don't start!)

Two other limited series that concluded in 1984 were THE OFFICIAL

HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE (with two Books of the Dead and a Book of Weapons), and the trucker's perennial favorite, U.S. 1. Ulysses Solomon Archer and the gang at the Short Stop discovered the true identity of the evil Midnight—as the mild mannered waitress Mary McGrill—and of the even more evil Highwayman—as Ulysses' own brother! The wrap-up, which took the truckers into outer space with a CB-speaking alien, had to be seen to be believed!

Among the new limited series of the year, MACHINE MAN made an impressive premiere in a book by such diverse talents as Tom DeFalco, Herb Trimpe and Barry Windsor-Smith. Disassembled for decades, Machine Man "woke up" in the year 2020, where he was reunited with old friend Gears Garvin, and even older enemy Sunset Bain. But his most deadly nemesis was without a doubt Arno Stark, the Iron Man of 2020!

Also set in the future was the second hit limited series for HERCULES, PRINCE OF POWER. Could he protect Skypki the Skrull from a renegade Skrull-killer? More importantly, could he save himself, Apollo, and the other gods of Olympus from a seemingly insane Zeus? Only writer/artist Bob Layton held the answers.

Three heroes went on odysseys of self-discovery in their respective limited series: ICEMAN, JACK OF HEARTS, and PRINCE NAMOR THE SUBMARINER. Bobby Drake saw a new side to his family while tussling with new enemies White Light and the Idiot! Jack Hart discovered that both his mother and his old girlfriend Marcy Kane were both aliens, and traveled into space to save the Contraxians from galactic disaster and political revolution. And Namor addressed the United Nations to win admission for Atlantis, only to be undone when betrayed by his new love, the vengeful Jacqueline Truffaut!

Another use for the limited series was to present high-quality reprints of classic adventures, occasionally with new coloring. The four issue ELEKTRA SAGA added new art and re-ordered the adventures of Frank Miller's redoubtable assassin in proper chronology, while NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD re-presented some of the classic Jim Steranko stories on Baxter stock, and the MICRONAUTS SPECIAL EDITION packaged the initial Bill Mantlo/Mike Golden epic with similar loving care.

The Micronauts also co-starred in the first of several miniseries that would pair everyone's favorite mutants with each of Marvel's other super-teams. THE X-MEN AND THE MICRONAUTS, with art by Jackson Guice, sent the two teams against a menace so dire that even Baron Karza was on the heroes' side! It was called the Entity, and



sharp-eyed readers recognized it as the psychic manifestation of Charles Xavier's dark side. But how could the mutants and the Micros destroy the Entity and save the two worlds without destroying Professor X as well?

Many limited series were advertised months ahead of their actual release; the last minute delays of getting every detail just right often meant that fans went crazy waiting for the book to appear at last. Such a case was **KITTY PRIDE AND WOLVERINE**, in which the secret peril of Kitty's father brought her to Japan, where she was psychically remade in the image of the demon ninja! To save her would take every bit of Wolverine's skill, and perhaps even he could not defeat Kitty when possessed by the evil Ogun!

Of course, not every limited series made it to the light of day. **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #7** listed the following tantalizing item: "**MANTIS #1**. She's daring. She's dramatic. She's never been seen before. She comes from China. Who is... Mantis? A new limited series set in Los Angeles, presenting martial arts excitement with a fantasy twist! Written by Denny O'Neil and pencils by Val Mayerik!" Think there's a chance we'll ever see those pages?

As in years before, limited series also offered Marvel's adaptations of fantasy and action films in a full-color newsstand format. **RETURN OF THE JEDI** concluded its comics run in '84, and the year also saw an attractive two-part adaptation of **TARZAN OF THE APES**, published to coincide with the release of the theatrical film **GREYSTOKE**. As for other Marvel movie adaptations, we'll cover them next month, when we examine Marvel's licensed properties: **CONAN**, **G.I. JOE**, **INDIANA JONES**, **DR. WHO**, and many, many more!

—Brian Nelson



MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

I've gotta admit, I never thought anyone would pay me just to write about what are some of my favorite comics... but don't take my word for it! Check out the back issues of these Marvel masterworks and enjoy the stories firsthand! Here's what the books will probably cost you in your local comics specialty shop. Our source, of course, is Robert Overstreet's **OFFICIAL COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #20**. But remember: This is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and should be lower for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION			
	Good Fine Mint			
	1-4 2-4 3-4			
■ CLOAK AND DAGGER (LS)				
4	.25	.75	1.50	
■ ELEKTRA SAGA				
1-4	1.00	3.00	6.00	
■ FALCON				
3-4		.50	1.00	
■ HERCULES (LS VOL 2)				
1	.25	.75	1.50	
2-4		.50	1.00	
■ ICEMAN				
1	.30	1.00	2.00	
■ JACK OF HEARTS				
1-4		.50	1.00	
■ KITTY PRIDE & WOLVERINE				
1	.75	2.25	4.50	
2-4	.60	1.75	3.50	
■ MACHINE MAN (LS)				
1	.25	.75	1.50	
2-4		.60	1.20	
■ MAGIK (STORM & ILLYANA)				
2-4	.35	1.00	2.00	
■ MICRONAUTS SPECIAL EDITION				
1-5		.70	1.40	
■ NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD (LS)				
2	.35	1.00	2.00	
■ OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE				
13-15	.40	1.20	2.50	
■ PRINCE NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER				
1	.30	.90	1.75	
2-4		.50	1.00	
■ RED SONJA (VOL. 3)				
4		.60	1.20	
■ RETURN OF THE JEDI				
4		.50	1.00	
■ TARZAN OF THE APES (LS)				
1-2	.30	.60		
■ U.S. 1				
8-12	.25	.50		
■ X-MEN AND THE MICRONAUTS				
1-4	.25	.75	1.50	



MARK'S REMARKS

You can't read super hero comics for very long before you begin to fantasize about having superhuman powers and wonder if such abilities are to any degree possible. Not only that, but the wonders of aliens, subsea cities, hidden races, time travel, magic—all these things are routine encounters in the pages of the four color funnybooks. (Funny strange not funny ha ha.) When you're young and your knowledge of the physical world is still impressionable, comics are a wonderful way to stretch your imagination as well as being a wealth of erroneous information. Thanks to my longstanding love of comics, I have always been interested in science and what's beyond science—the paranormal. As a subscriber to the *Skeptical Inquirer* (the journal of inquiry into the claims of the paranormal), I've been acutely aware of the ever changing boundaries between science and the rational, and the unexplained and unsubstantiated.

Recently the thought occurred to me, what are the beliefs of those of us who work in fantasy for a living? Does the weirdness and inexplicableness of the Marvel Universe's pseudoscience rub off on us, affecting our personal beliefs about the real world. Does it make us all the more hardened against fantasy, or does it have no effect at all? Being the inquisitive type, I came up with a survey, cribbed largely from one appearing in *The Skeptical Inquirer* and coaxed 35 of my fellow Marveloids on the editorial and production staff to fill it out. With the able assistance of my secretary, Josie McCain, the results were tabulated. Here for what they're worth, is a list of statements, many of which have as yet been unproved by science, followed by the number of respondents who strongly believe, mildly believe, mildly disbelieve, or strongly

disbelieve in it, and my inevitable commentary. I'm hoping this bunch of people who spend their workdays steeped in comics are a representative sampling of the whole lot of us. . .

1. *The position of the stars at your birth influences your personality.* Strong belief: 1. Mild Belief: 10. Mild disbelief: 9. Strong disbelief: 15. It looks like a majority of comic bookers don't believe in astrology. Perhaps that accounts for the dearth of characters who are astrologically based or influenced. (So when's the last time we showed the Thing reading his horoscope?)

2. *Half-human/half-ape beings exist today.* Strong belief: 5. Mild belief: 9. Mild disbelief: 8. Strong disbelief: 13. Another majority of Marveloids dismissed the existence of sasquatches, yetis, bigfoots, and missing links. That, of course, hasn't dampened enthusiasm for such characters as Sasquatch, Wendigo, the Beast, and others.

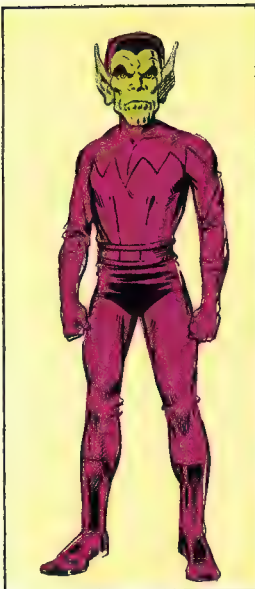
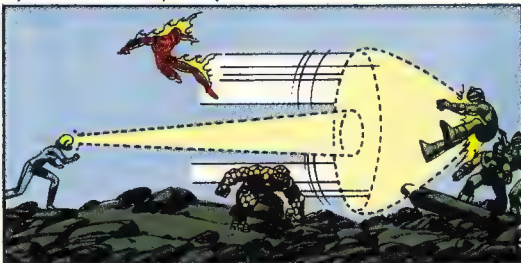
3. *Alien life forms exist.* Strong belief: 22. Mild belief: 8. Mild disbelief: 3. Strong disbelief: 2. All right. The vast majority believes in other life Out There. We certainly have an abundance of it in the Marvel Universe, but as yet we have no evidence one way or another if we're alone in the universe or far from unique.

4. *Alien life forms have visited earth.* Strong belief: 12. Mild belief: 11. Mild disbelief: 10. Strong disbelief: 3. Of the 30 folks who believe in extraterrestrials, 23 of them believe they've actually trafficked with us Earthlings.

5. *Some people can see the future.* Strong belief: 13. Mild belief: 13. Mild disbelief: 6. Strong disbelief: 3. The majority of Marveloids believe in precognition, it seems. No wonder so many of them handed in the answers to this survey before I actually gave them it. (Just kidding.)

6. *Some people can move objects mentally.* Strong belief: 12. Mild belief: 11. Mild disbelief: 7. Strong disbelief: 9. A pretty strong showing for psychokinesis. And to think that none of the current staff was around when Uri Geller visited the offices and bent former editor in chief Marv Wolfman's keys!

Psychokinesis? Marveloids polled say "Yes!"



7. *People's souls survive the death of their bodies.* Strong belief: 16. Mild belief: 11. Mild disbelief: 6. Strong disbelief: 2. The majority of Marveloids believe in some sort of afterlife. Since most traditional religious systems do too, they're in good company.

8. *Some people have lived lives prior to the ones they are living now.* Strong belief: 2. Mild belief: 15. Mild disbelief: 9. Strong disbelief: 9. Almost half believe in reincarnation as the particular method by which people's souls survive death.

9. *There is something about the Bermuda Triangle which is responsible for the mysterious disappearances of ships, planes, etc.* Strong belief: 3. Mild belief: 16. Mild disbelief: 7. Strong



Spontaneous human combustion? Take note, Torch. Marveloids polled say "No!"

disbelief: 8. A slight majority believes the legends of the Bermuda Triangle, setting of Marvel's late lamented SKULL THE SLAYER series.

10. Psychics have actually helped police find murderers. Strong belief: 13. Mild belief: 11. Mild disbelief: 9. Strong disbelief: 2. Over two thirds believe that police departments have enlisted the aid of Peter Hurkos and his ilk. Interesting.

11. Prayer can make amazing things happen. Strong belief: 12. Mild belief: 10. Mild disbelief: 8. Strong disbelief: 5. A majority apparently believes in the personal intervention of unseen forces to help human beings achieve their wishes. Another traditional religious belief.

12. Subliminal information causes some people to obey the message. Strong belief: 9. Mild belief: 17. Mild disbelief: 5. Strong disbelief: 4. Whew. An overwhelming group of Marveloids believes in subliminal compulsions, despite there being no experimental evidence supporting it.

13. Some people can heal illness by simply touching the patient. Strong belief: 6. Mild belief: 12. Mild disbelief: 9. Strong disbelief: 8. Faith healing? Marveloids are almost evenly divided on the issue.

14. People can become possessed by spirits or demons. Strong belief: 3. Mild belief: 12. Mild disbelief: 10. Strong disbelief: 10. A majority doesn't seem to believe in evil spirits.

15. Human beings are genetically related to apes. Strong belief: 25. Mild belief: 5. Mild disbelief: 2. Strong disbelief: 3. Scientists have determined that something like 99 per cent of our genetic material is identical to that of the chimpanzee. The overwhelming majority of Marveloids don't have a problem with that. (Maybe because we used to publish PLANET OF THE APES.) Belief in this kinship does not necessarily make one a believer in evolution, a possible mechanism exp-

laining why our two species are related.

16. Yogis can will their hearts to stop for up to 30 seconds. Strong belief: 17. Mild belief: 16. Mild disbelief: 1. Strong disbelief: 1. Control over autonomic responses—Marveloids say yes!

17. Rudimentary life has been created from non-living molecules in a laboratory. Strong belief: 2. Mild belief: 10. Mild disbelief: 9. Strong disbelief: 14. The majority of us don't believe scientists have synthesized any sort of life form by recreating the primordial soup, apparently.

18. People can start on fire for no apparent reason. Strong belief: 3. Mild belief: 10. Mild disbelief: 9. Strong disbelief: 12. Not a lot of popular support for spontaneous combustion. Human Torch, take note.

19. Water can be found with dowsing rods. Strong belief: 2. Mild belief: 13. Mild disbelief: 13. Strong disbelief: 7. A slight majority has no use in divining sticks.

20. People can be cursed so bad things happen to them. Strong belief: 1. Mild belief: 13. Mild disbelief: 11. Strong disbelief: 9. The majority don't believe in curses, but a sizable number do. A pox on them, I say! (Again, kidding.)

21. Some mothers have psychic bonds with their children and can sense when they're hurt or in danger even when separated by some distance. Strong belief: 6. Mild belief: 23. Mild disbelief: 4. Strong disbelief: 3. Wow. Empathy between mom and kid scores high.

22. There is a big, living creature in Loch Ness. Strong belief: 2. Mild belief: 15. Mild disbelief: 10. Strong disbelief: 8. About half and half as far as Nessie goes.

23. People who live good lives will be rewarded after life. Strong belief: 5. Mild belief: 11. Mild disbelief: 8. Strong disbelief: 9. Again about half of the Marveloids appear to believe in

Heaven or its equivalent. Compare that 16 to the 27 who believe in the survival of the spirit after death, and the 17 who believe in reincarnation.

24. Scientists will one day cure the problem of aging, granting human beings extremely long life spans. Strong belief: 0. Mild belief: 8. Mild disbelief: 9. Strong disbelief: 18. Great pessimism toward the idea of eternal youth. Elders of the Universe, a word to the wise. This question has more to do with faith in human scientific genius than in anything paranormal, but I thought I'd toss it in.

So there we have it, the highlights of my survey. What can we generalize about the belief systems of your on-staff Marveloids? Hmmm, I was surprised by the support for alien visitations, psychokinesis, psychic detectives, subliminal compulsions, Nessie, and mother/child bonds, but otherwise there doesn't seem to be any special fantasy bias. Any of you out there see any patterns I've missed in the answers? Drop me a line in care of this magazine. Till next time, believe whatever you want to—as long as it doesn't hurt you or anybody else. Just don't expect me to believe it. I'm a skeptic.

—Mark Gruenwald



IT'S Mailer TIME!

Send your letters to: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Comics Group, 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY, 10016.

Attention correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your complete name and address, though we will gladly withhold that info on request!



This month's snazzy letter column title answers the age-old question, "What time is it after a long, hard day of reading the first twenty-nine pages of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE?" And the person we have to thank for that bit of enlightenment is Andrew Teixeira of Weymouth, MA. Thanks a lot, Andrew!

Before we get too carried away with our newfound intellectual growth, though, we oughta just take a minute to remind everyone that if you've got any other secrets of the universe to share—or just a zippy idea for a title for this column—send it on in! If we use your idea, we'll even thank you right here in black and white! And while that may not be as good as a three-year meditation retreat on a Himalayan mountaintop, it still ain't half bad.

Marvel,

I'm just writing in to make a comment. Our boys in Iraq are workin' hard for the U.S.—and are doing a damn good job. But recently I was thinking, "Those guys can't be fighting all the time—what do they do when they are not?"

A few days later, my history teacher read us a letter from the superintendent of schools in Albany. It said they would be grateful if us students had anything we could send the bravest of the brave. Some things mentioned were board games, canned foods, magazines, COMIC BOOKS, etc. So I thought, "Hey, I got a lot of comic books!" So I sent fifty of my best and worst comic books, worst meaning the ones I thought I'd like but I didn't. And

yet, I wasn't sure if they had the pleasure of reading the new SPIDER-MAN title. I couldn't take the chance of their being deprived of this excellent book, so I sent the first five issues. Not to worry though, I've still got about three copies of each left. (Better get another couple of sets!)

Anyhow, the message is, if anyone is willing, I'm sure Uncle Sam would appreciate it if we sent our boys some

good, old-fashioned super hero reading material (not to mention the other things I listed!). So let's move—we owe it to this country! Make mine. . .

Rob Rowland
779 Brighton Rd
Con. NY, 14150

As we mentioned a few issues back, Rob, Marvel and several other comics publishers have sent ship-



ments of comic books to the American troops in the Persian Gulf as part of an effort called Operation Comics Shield. We're glad to see that you've been doing your part, too! Nice going!

Of course, the war is over now, but there are an awful lot of soldiers who are still overseas, and they could probably use some entertainment too. So if anyone else has comic books (or any books, magazines, or other reading materials) that you'd like to send, you can address your packages to:

Any Service Member
Operation Desert Storm
FFO
New York, NY 09866-0006

After all, remember: It's not just a trip to the post office, it's an adventure!

Dear Marvel Mongers,

Cleaning my room recently, I came across my old Secret Wars figure of Magneto. Seeing how you guys are on a rampage producing models, PVC figures, posters, etc., I was wondering if you are going to come out with new action figures. With the same layout as the G.I. Joe figures (i.e. fully poseable), you would have virtually unlimited potential for success! You could produce Wolverines, Punishers, and other proven high sellers!

I think the public is once again ready for an invasion of Marvel madness! I know that all Marvel Zombies are frustrated by the rarity of Secret Wars characters, and these would almost quench our thirst for Marvel adventures!

Well, until Wolverine shapes one of his claws into a spoon, Make Mine Marvel!

Rob Giampa
7 Birdwing
Irvine, CA 92714

No sooner said than done, Rob! If you hurry down to your local toy store, you should find an all-new line of Marvel Super Heroes action figures, including the likes of the Punisher, the Silver Surfer, and lots more! In fact, you might even want to pick up a few extras to give as gifts at those unexpected birthday parties and bridal showers! For more information on our very latest offerings, check out Dwight Jon Zimmerman's article on page 12!

And speaking of bridal showers, is that the glint of a 24-karat diamond ring we see? Nope, it's just the friendly glow of the sunny yellow background that heralds the arrival of our LETTER OF THE MONTH! That's right—just like every month, we've delved deep into our voluminous sacks of mail to come up with a letter that we think

will be of special interest to Marvelites far and near. In fact, we have a feeling that this particular Letter of the Month describes a point of view that'll seem familiar to a whole lot of you out there...

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

I've been collecting comics for eleven out of my sixteen years and some people have been getting on my case for doing so. They always ask me why I collect them.

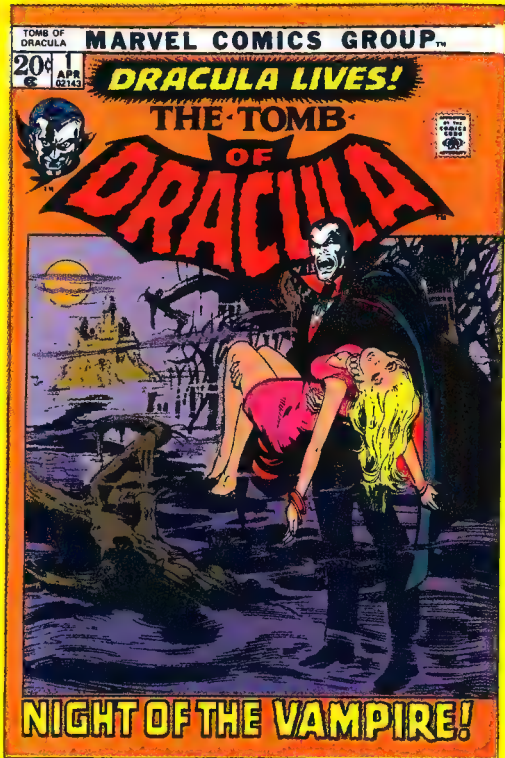
Why do I collect them? I guess part of the reason is writers like John Byrne and Frank Miller, artists like Todd McFarlane and Mike Mignola. Stories like "Born Again" in DAREDEVIL or "Atlantis Attacks" in the 1989 Annuals. The other reasons, I guess, are that I enjoy them and they're just entertaining to read.

Many people, like the late Dr. Frederic Wertham, gave comics a bad rap in the mid-1950's, and some people still hold that comics give young people "Satanic

ideas" and cause them to carry out "Satanic acts." Why don't they look at the horror movies like NIGHT OF THE DEMONS, HELLRAISER, and THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE? All of them but one deal directly with the Devil. And what about horror novels? A good deal of them have been about Satan too!

Now, within the last decade, a number of horror comics and comics that showed a lot of skin rose and fell. The Pacific Comics series ALIEN WORLDS, DEMON DREAMS, and BERNI WRIGHTSON: MASTER OF THE MACABRE have had their shares of horror and skin (although I have not seen a magazine by Berni Wrightson in which he showed anyone completely nude). Where are those titles now?

I guess what I'm trying to say to people is, there are people who collect CDs, guns, or old novels, and there are people who collect comics. It's a big world and people like many different things. Instead of trying to put comics



down, take a look at **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**, **BATMAN**, or **DICK TRACY**. See what many of us love. If you like them, that's cool. But if you don't, please leave comics alone and don't put them down.

Brian Hunsaker
6522F Woodlake Vill. Ct
Midlothian, VA 23112

Nicely said, Brian! The position you're in at the moment is one that most of us have been in at one time or another, and we know it's not always easy. In fact, now that your letter has been published, we wouldn't be surprised if you start to hear from other comics enthusiasts out there who are having similar experiences of their own.

Unfortunately, some people just don't seem to realize that it's okay for other folks to have interests other than their own. But that's not to say you shouldn't stand up for your own interests or stop trying to change their minds! One approach you might want to take is to share some of your favorite comics with your friends; if they're exposed to the things that you find so appealing about comics, they might come to understand it themselves. Maybe you could offer them the DAREDEVIL "Born Again" story you mention (which is available in a trade paperback edition for anyone who doesn't already own it). Or perhaps Jim Starlin and Bernie (that's right, it's Bernie, now!) Wrightson's PUNISHER P.O.V. limited series, which mixes super hero action and gruesome horror and stretches the boundaries of both. Either one of them might be a good place to start!

Before we leave the topic completely, though, there's one more point we want to make: We'd be a little hesitant to point a finger at movies, horror novels, or any other media as the "real" problem instead of comics. Those sorts of arguments always make us a little uneasy, because we've heard so many people from other media make basically the same argument by saying, "No, we're okay, but you should see what they're doing in comic books (or cartoons, or music, or whatever)!" To us, the whole thing smacks a little too much of passing the buck. Personally, we feel that the best way to deal with things you don't care for is not to support them; after all, nobody's forcing anyone to buy things they don't like.

an artist for Marvel Comics one day.

But there is one question I would like you to answer for me. Will the alien costume ever return to the possession of Spider-Man?

I have over 150 comic books and I plan to collect until I have a total of 1000 comic books (a long way to go, huh?). Well, I've wasted enough of your time.

Kurt Bryan
1732 Coll-Arl Rd.
Eads, TN 35028

Heck, Kurt, you're not wasting our time! Trying to figure out the nuances and subtexts of AMERICAN GLADIATORS, now, that's wasting our time!

Spidey's one-time costume is still alive and well, but it doesn't look like it'll be returning to him anytime soon—mainly because it's currently being worn by the villainous Venom! And to tell you the truth,

we'd bet that if Venom had his druthers, he'd rather see the web-slinger wearing a funeral shroud!

Hope you caught Venom's recent appearance in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. It should serve as ample proof that fashion does indeed demand sacrifice.

And on that slightly sartorial note, we figure it's about time to polish up our spats and mosey on out of here again. But before we go, let's pause and reflect, smell the roses, and meet a brand-new batch of MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS! You guessed it—it's more of those fun-loving folks from far off lands who are looking for new friends with whom they can exchange cards, letters, and the occasional bit of foolscap. Why not take a minute, grab your handy quill and inkpot, and drop one or two of them a line? It's easy, and it's a lot more fun than electrolysis!

MARVEL® CORRESPONDENTS

If you'd like to be listed in this space yourself, simply send in your name, address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel series to Marvel Correspondents at the address 'way back at the top of this letter column. Aw, g'wan!

James Derbyshire
8577 Bell Crescent
Niagara Falls, Ontario
Canada L2G 6Y5

Age: 16

Favorites: SILVER SURFER, QUASAR, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Brett Taylor
1 Koolyn Place
Wallerawang, 2845
N.S.W. Australia

Age: 15

Favorites: All X-titles, All Spider-titles, all Avenger titles

Curt Ziegler
9595 Longden
Temple City, CA 91780

Age: 18

Favorites: X-MEN, DAREDEVIL, FANTASTIC FOUR

David Walker
50 Melissa Street, Donvale
Vic, Australia 3111

Age: 15

Favorites: X-MEN, X-FACTOR, DAREDEVIL

Pierluigi Porazzi
Via Sottocolle Verzan 58/A
33017 Tarcento (Udine)
Italy

Age: 24

Favorites: SPIDER-MAN, FANTASTIC FOUR, X-MEN

Patrick Trienta
8026 Linda Vista Rd., Apt. 1J
San Diego, CA 92111

Age: 13

Favorites: X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS, X-FACTOR

Dave Lichtman
95 Jeffery Lane
Oceanside, NY 11572

Age: 18

Favorites: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, WEST COAST AVENGERS, SILVER SURFER

David Snyder
HC #1, Box 25A
Roundtop, NY 12473

Age: 19

Favorites: All Spider-titles, All Mutant titles, PUNISHER

John Brown
1501 Picadilly
Blue Springs, MO 64014

Age: 16

Favorites: SILVER SURFER, IRON MAN, All X-titles

Robert Coy
5326 Bennett Street
Portage, MI 49002

Age: 13

Favorites: SILVER SURFER, AVENGERS WEST COAST, IRON MAN

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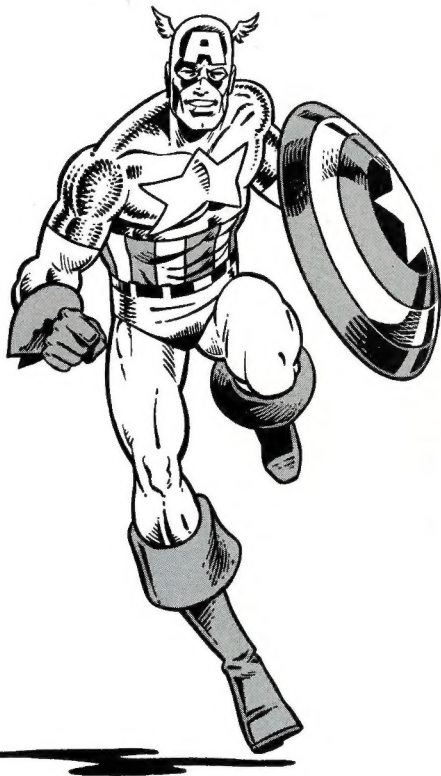
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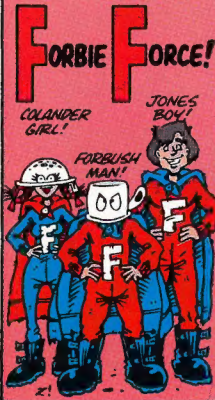
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THE 1991 MARVEL AGE CALENDAR

JULY

WRITER: MIKE LACKEY
ARTIST: RON ZALME
COLORIST: R. WITTERSTAETTER

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
IT'S RICK JONES! YOU'VE TRIED EVERYTHING--BUT HE WON'T SHUT UP!	1 INTRODUCING KNICK-KNACK! SECALICUS, NJ'S FIRST VILLAIN!	IT'S "THE NAME" JOE HALLEN B-DAY!
	TODAY IS EDITORS CRAIG ANDERSON & TERRY KAVANAGH'S DAY O' BIRTH!	YESTERDAY WAS PRODUCTION VIRGINIA ROMI B-DAY!
DAG! JONES MADE SOUP IN MY HAT AGAIN!	IT'S JACK ABEL'S BIRTHDAY! SO THE ROBBIE SAYS TO BENNY "YOUR FISHY OR YOUR LIFE?" AND JACK SAYS "I'M THINKING!" THEN ONE TIME OR HOPE	
	IT'S EDITOR MIKE ROCKWITZ'S B-DAY!	LOOK AT WENDY
IT'S INKER IAN AKIN'S B-DAY!	JEEZ, WHATTA PIG! THIS IS ALL MUSCLE--NOT FAT!	HEY--IF THE S FISK'S--WEAR

